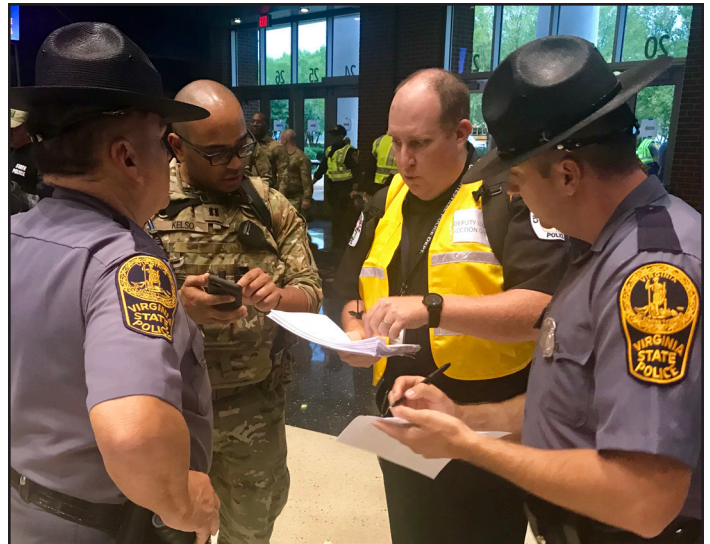


VNG Soldiers support security effort in Charlottesville

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assisted local and state law enforcement and provided aviation reconnaissance support to the Unified Command operating in Charlottesville during the anniversary of the Unite the Right rally Aug. 10-12, 2018, in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Unified Command consisted of law enforcement, fire and emergency services personnel from the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and the University of Virginia as well as the Virginia State Police and multiple other localities with the primary goal of keeping citizens safe.

"There was tremendous interagency support to Charlottesville by our local, regional and state partners," said Brig. Gen. James W. Ring, the Virginia National Guard director of the joint staff. "The professional support provided by the men and women of the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force remains a key enabler to the commonwealth during state emergency response operations. We continue to build on our longstanding partnership with the Virginia State Police and appreciate their service and professionalism throughout the mission."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/15/11880/>



The Virginia National Guard assists Virginia State Police with security operations Aug. 11, 2018, in Charlottesville, Virginia, during the anniversary of the Unite the Right rally.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

116th IBCT conducts Warfighter exercise

More than 600 members of the Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participated in a Warfighter exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, July 14-28, 2018.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/08/11843/>

Army Reserve engineers improve Fort Pickett infrastructure

Army Reserve Soldiers assigned to the Marion, Virginia-based 760th Engineer Company, 363rd Engineer Battalion worked to improve sidewalks at the Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett during their extended combat training July 14-27, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/10/11849/>

Boyd assumes command of Virginia State Medical Command

Lt. Col. David G. Boyd took command of the Virginia National Guard's Medical Command from Col. Thomas E. Koertge, Aug. 5, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/17/11857/>

1030th Soldiers sharpen their fieldcraft during annual training

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group conducted annual training from July 14-28, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/09/11846/>

Did You Know?

Fitness App Safe User Guide

Location-based fitness apps have made the news lately for endangering operational security and personal privacy. One app, Polar, shared information on 6,460 users from 69 countries and 208 sensitive locations like FBI offices, nuclear power plants and missile defense locations.

Read tips to protect yourself at

<https://go.usa.gov/xUE7q>.

ChalleNGe welcomes back alumni for 25th reunion

The Virginia Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy welcomed back alumni at a 25th anniversary alumni reunion July 28, 2018, at Camp Pendleton State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach. The event, which was conducted in coordination with family day for the current class, Class 49, provided alumni with the opportunity to meet with current staff and leadership, learn about the current activities at ChalleNGe, and discuss ways they can stay involved with the program.

"I thought the event went well," said Mark Chicoine, director of Commonwealth ChalleNGe. "Based on feedback, the alumni were excited about returning. They had kind remarks about the program and expressed an interest in having reunions more often."

More than 40 alumni and family members attended the reunion, with the oldest being a graduate of Class 3. The current class is Class 49, which will graduate Aug. 25. Their graduation will put the total number of graduates of the program at more than 5,000 since it began in 1993.

"The purpose of bringing alumni back to ChalleNGe was to continue to develop an alumni support network throughout the state," Chicoine explained.

He said they learned ChalleNGe alumni are very interested in giving back to the program and asked how they can help.

"The comments were 'How can I help? What are the requirements to become a mentor? The program made me a better person and helped me to become more focused on life,'" he said.

Chicoine said he hopes to make alumni day an annual event, in conjunction with each July's family day.

More than 125 parents and family members attended family day for the 91 cadets in Class 49. The event included a pass and review of cadets, a drill & ceremony demonstration, food and drinks, a silent auction, and tours of the facilities.

"We received many thanks from parents, guardians and family members about the change their sons, daughters, nephews and nieces have made since attending our program," Chicoine said.

Commonwealth ChalleNGe, the Virginia component of



Mark Chicoine, director of Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy, welcomes back alumni at a 25th anniversary alumni reunion July 28, 2018, at Camp Pendleton State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach.

the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, is a 17-and-a-half-month program that is structured in a military-style environment designed to promote academics, attention to detail, time management, and leadership, while promoting self-esteem, confidence and pride. It includes a five and a half month residential program which focuses on preparing at-risk teens and high school dropouts for the General Educational Development test and future employment, military or higher education opportunities.

Each Commonwealth ChalleNGe class accepts up to 180 youth per session and more than 4,000 cadets have completed the program since Commonwealth ChalleNGe started."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/21/11863/>

MORE ON THE WEB

AG visits 29th Infantry Division Band

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/14/11852/>

Photos: Normandy Soldiers conduct tactical training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/7215769444762550>

Photos: Air Assault kicks off at Fort Pickett

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157696793694532>

Photos: CERFP search & extraction team trains in W.Va.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157698801471161>

Photos: State leaders tour Fort Pickett

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157697256429662>



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



Cadets with the Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy conduct a pass and review and drill and ceremony demonstration during Class 49's Family Day July 28, 2018.